



**WHAT ARE NOXIOUS WEEDS?**

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that are highly destructive, competitive and difficult to control or eliminate. They can reduce crop yields, destroy native plant and animal habitat, damage recreational opportunities, clog waterways, lower land values, and poison humans and livestock.

**WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?**

Noxious weeds are found everywhere in King County, from cities to farms, from forests to rivers and lakes, from Puget Sound to the mountain passes. Over the years, people have introduced non-native species to our region either intentionally in gardens and landscapes or unintentionally through contaminated hay, seeds or bark. A small but dangerous number of these species have turned out to be highly invasive and damaging.

**WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF NOXIOUS WEEDS?**

Each year noxious weeds cost King County millions of dollars in lost agricultural production, environmental degradation and control costs. Once invasive plants become established, it is very expensive to eradicate them. In natural areas, it may not even be feasible to remove them once they take hold.

**WHAT IS THE STATE NOXIOUS WEED LAW?**

Washington’s noxious weed law (RCW 17.10) requires public and private landowners – including city, county and state land agencies – to control and prevent the spread of designated noxious weeds on their property. “Control” is defined in WAC 16-750 as the prevention of all seed production. Federally owned lands are subject to the Federal Noxious Weed Act (Public Law 93-629). Since many people are unfamiliar with noxious weeds, the county weed program is available to provide information on identification and control methods. Landowners can choose the control method they feel is most appropriate for their property.

This information is available in alternate formats. Call 206-296-0290 or TTY: 711.

Noxious weeds should be controlled wherever they occur and should not be introduced to new sites. For questions, please call our program line at 206-296-0290 or visit our website at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/weeds>

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Water and Land Resources Division  
**Noxious Weed Control Program**  
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206-296-0290 TTY Relay: 711  
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

The King County Noxious Weed Control Program works to minimize the economic, environmental and social impacts of noxious weeds in King County.

**KING COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PROGRAM OUR MISSION:**

**WHY IS THERE A LAW TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS?**

Noxious weeds affect everyone. Weeds do not obey property lines or jurisdictional boundaries. It takes a coordinated effort to prevent new noxious weeds from establishing and to control and eradicate the weeds already here. The noxious weed law provides a tool to quickly and effectively stop the spread of the new and most damaging weeds.

**WHICH WEEDS SHOULD BE CONTROLLED?**

To help protect people, resources and private lands, the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board adopts a state weed list each year (WAC 16-750).<sup>\*</sup> Noxious weeds are separated into classes A, B and C based on distribution, abundance, and level of threat (how dangerous the plant is to humans, animals, private and public lands, and native habitats).

The goal is to prevent the spread of new and recently introduced weeds while it is still cost-effective. Class A weeds are the most limited in distribution and therefore the highest priority for control. Class B and C weeds vary in priority based on local distribution and impacts. Noxious weeds that are widespread in King County are called non-designated noxious weeds and control of these is recommended but not required.



**English Ivy**  
*Non-designated Noxious Weed*

The King County Noxious Weed Program has Best Management Practices and easy to use Fact Sheets on noxious weeds in the county. These are available online at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/weeds> or from the office by calling 206-296-0290.

**HOW DO I FIND OUT HOW TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS?**

- Remove or control weeds safely and appropriately.
- Replant with appropriate species to prevent weeds from returning.
- Prevent seed production and spread of weeds.
- Properly dispose of noxious weeds and weed seeds.
- Follow best management practices for pastures and open spaces.

**Control weed infestations:**

- Use weed-free seed and forage.
- Obey noxious weed laws and quarantines.
- Choose non-invasive species for your gardens and landscapes.
- Check vehicles, clothing, boats, boat trailers, and camping equipment for weeds and seeds.
- Never dump aquarium plants into a pond, stream or other waterbodies.
- Cover compost, topsoil and mulch piles with a tarp.

**Prevent weed infestations:**

**WHAT CAN I DO?**

**WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE KING COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED PROGRAM?**

We educate property owners on identification, impacts and control methods for state-listed noxious weeds. It is also our job to locate noxious weed infestations that are not being effectively controlled. To achieve this, the program conducts annual surveys and follow up checks on existing noxious weed locations.

**WHAT DOES THE COUNTY DO WHEN NOXIOUS WEEDS ARE FOUND?**

Program staff provide the landowner with information on how to identify and control the noxious weeds on their property. If requested, we will meet with the owner or property manager to review the weed locations and discuss site-appropriate control methods.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE NOXIOUS WEEDS ARE NOT CONTROLLED?**

We will make several attempts to contact the landowner to achieve control. If there is no control when we return to survey at the specified time, landowners may be issued a Notice of Violation giving them 10 days (or 48 hours if weeds are in flower or seed) to control the noxious weeds. If the noxious weeds are not completely controlled by the end of the NOV time limit, the program is authorized by Washington’s noxious weed law (RCW 17.10) to hire a contractor to complete the control work, and bill the owner for the contractor’s fees plus the program’s administrative costs of the enforcement.

<sup>\*</sup>Between November and April, any person may request a change to the Washington State Noxious Weed List for the following year. For more information, call the State Noxious Weed Control Board office at 360-902-2094.



# 2007 King County Noxious Weed List

The King County Noxious Weed Control Board has adopted this Noxious Weed List in accordance with RCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750. Weeds in **bold** are new for this year.

**CLASS A WEEDS** have limited distribution in Washington. Because infestations are small in number and limited in density, preventing new infestations and eradicating existing infestations is the highest priority. **Eradication of these species is required by law throughout Washington state.**

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>	velvetleaf
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	garlic mustard
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Italian thistle
<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	slenderflower thistle
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	purple starthistle <sup>1</sup>
<i>Centaurea macrocephala</i>	bighead knapweed
<i>Centaurea nigrescens</i>	Vochin knapweed
<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	common crupina
<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>	eggleaf spurge <sup>1</sup>
<i>Galega officinalis</i>	goatsrue <sup>1</sup>
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	reed sweetgrass
<i>Helianthus ciliaris</i>	Texas blueweed
<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	giant hogweed <sup>1</sup>
<i>Hieracium floribundum</i>	yellow devil hawkweed
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	hydrilla
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	dyers woad
<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	floating primrose-willow
<i>Mirabilis nyctaginea</i>	wild four o'clock
<i>Pueraria montana var. lobata</i>	kudzu
<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>	Mediterranean sage
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	meadow clary
<i>Salvia sclarea</i>	clary sage
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	milk thistle <sup>1</sup>
<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	silverleaf nightshade <sup>1</sup>
<i>Solanum rostratum</i>	buffalobur
<i>Soliva sessilis</i>	lawnweed
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	johnsongrass <sup>1</sup>
<i>Spartina densiflora</i>	dense flower cordgrass
<i>Spartina patens</i>	salt meadow cordgrass
<i>Spartium junceum</i> <sup>1</sup>	Spanish broom <sup>1</sup>
<i>Thymelaea passerina</i>	spurge flax
<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i>	Syrian bean-caper

**CLASS B WEEDS** are abundant in some parts of the state and less common in others. The following Class B weeds have been designated by state law or selected by the County Weed Board as priority weeds in King County. **Control and containment of these species is required by law.**

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian knapweed <sup>1</sup>
<i>Alhagi maurorum</i>	camelthorn
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	blackgrass
<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	annual bugloss
<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	common bugloss
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	wild chervil <sup>1</sup>
<i>Berteroa incana</i>	hoary alyssum
<i>Bryonia alba</i>	white bryony <sup>1</sup>
<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	fanwort
<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	plumeless thistle
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	musk thistle
<i>Cenchrus longispinus</i>	longspine sandbur
<i>Centaurea stoebe</i> (syn. <i>C. biebersteinii</i> )	spotted knapweed
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	diffuse knapweed
<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	brown knapweed
<i>Centaurea jacea x nigra</i>	meadow knapweed
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	black knapweed
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	yellow starthistle <sup>1</sup>
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	rush skeletonweed
<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	yellow nutsedge
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	blueweed, viper’s bugloss <sup>1</sup>
<i>Egeria densa</i>	Brazilian elodea <sup>3</sup>
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	leafy spurge <sup>1</sup>
<i>Hieracium atratum</i>	polar hawkweed
<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	orange hawkweed
<i>Hieracium caespitosum</i>	yellow hawkweed
<i>Hieracium glomeratum</i>	queen-devil hawkweed
<i>Hieracium laevigatum</i>	smooth hawkweed
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	mouseear hawkweed
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	policeman’s helmet
<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	kochia
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	perennial pepperweed
<i>Lepyrodictis holosteoides</i>	lepyrodictis
<i>Linaria dalmatica ssp. dalmatica</i>	Dalmatian toadflax

**Class B Weeds Continued**

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Ludwigia hexapetala</i>	water primrose
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	garden loosestrife <sup>4</sup>
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	purple loosestrife <sup>4</sup>
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	parrotfeather
<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	yellow floating heart
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle
<i>Picris hieracioides</i>	oxtongue hawkweed
<i>Potentilla recta</i>	sulfur cinquefoil
<i>Rorippa austriaca</i>	Austrian fieldcress
<i>Sagittaria graminea</i>	grass-leaved arrowhead
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	tansy ragwort <sup>1</sup>
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	perennial sowthistle
<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	smooth cordgrass
<i>Spartina anglica</i>	common cordgrass
<i>Sphaerophysa salsula</i>	swainsonpea
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	saltcedar
<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	hedgeparsley
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse

**CLASS C WEEDS** are common throughout most of Washington. The King County Noxious Weed Board has selected these as priority weeds in the county dependant on feasibility of control and local threats. **Control and containment of these weeds is required by law.**

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	hairy willowherb
<i>Hieracium spp.</i>	non-native and invasive hawkweeds
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	common reed (non-native genotypes)

**NON-DESIGNATED NOXIOUS WEEDS** are Class B and C weeds from the State Weed List that also impact the county, but are already widespread; control recommended but not required.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	absinth wormwood <sup>1</sup>
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	butterfly bush
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	bull thistle
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	old man’s beard <sup>1</sup>
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	poison-hemlock <sup>1</sup>
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	field bindweed
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch broom <sup>1,2</sup>
<b><i>Daphne laureola</i></b>	<b>spurge laurel</b>
<b><i>Foeniculum vulgare</i></b> <b>(except var. azoricum)</b>	<b>common fennel</b>
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb Robert
<i>Hedera helix</i> ‘Baltica’	English ivy <sup>1</sup>
‘Pittsburgh’ and ‘Star’	(three cultivars)
<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	Atlantic ivy <sup>1</sup>
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	common St. Johnswort <sup>5</sup>
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	yellow flag iris <sup>1</sup>
<b><i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i></b>	<b>yellow archangel</b>
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	yellow toadflax
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian watermilfoil
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	fragrant water lily
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	reed canarygrass
<i>Polygonum bohemicum</i>	Bohemian knotweed
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Japanese knotweed
<i>Polygonum polystachyum</i>	Himalayan knotweed
<i>Polygonum sachalinense</i>	giant knotweed
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	curly-leaf pondweed
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	common groundsel <sup>1</sup>
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	common tansy <sup>1</sup>

**WEEDS OF CONCERN** (FORMERLY KNOWN AS OBNOXIOUS WEEDS) are widespread invasive plants that are not listed under the State Noxious Weed Law. The King County Weed Board recognizes these plants as invasive and is collecting information on their distribution. The Board recommends control and containment of existing populations and discourages new plantings.

King County’s Critical Areas Ordinance cites this list of weeds as invasive vegetation that threatens native ecosystems by displacing beneficial vegetation and degrading wildlife and native plant habitat.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	hedge bindweed
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	English holly <sup>1</sup>
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	English laurel
<i>Rubus discolor</i>	Himalayan blackberry
<i>Rubus laciniatus</i>	evergreen blackberry
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	bittersweet nightshade <sup>1</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Reported to be toxic to livestock and/or humans. Sources: USDA Poisonous Plant Research Laboratory, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, WA State Weed Board. This list is for general information only and may not be all-inclusive. Contact a veterinarian, doctor or local Poison Control Center for a complete list and information about treatment.
- <sup>2</sup> Control of Scotch broom is required on King County’s section of State Route 2 and I-90 between mile marker 34 and the King/Kittitas county line.
- <sup>3</sup> Brazilian elodea is designated for control throughout King County except in Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, Lake Union and Lake Fenwick.
- <sup>4</sup> Purple and garden loosestrife are county-selected for control in all areas of King County including those excluded by WAC 16-750.
- <sup>5</sup> Permit from KC Weed Board required to grow St. Johnswort as a crop in King County.

